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Carter Calls Camp David Crisis Talks

CAMP DAVID, Md. (UPI) — President Carter met with his top diplomatic and military advisers today over the Iranian crisis, and his spokesman said there was "some encouragement" to be found in the fact that diplomatic channels are still open.

Defense Secretary Harold Brown and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance were among those helicoptered here at 8 a.m. from Washington to discuss the plight of 49 American hostages at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

Others at the meeting included Air Force Gen. David Jones, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, CIA Director Stansfield Turner, Vice President Walter Mondale, and White House National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski.

Moments before they arrived, reporters asked White House press secretary Jody Powell whether diplomatic channels remained opened and he relied, "Yes."

"There may be some encouragement from the fact that they (diplomatic channels) are still active,"
Powell said. He did not elaborate.

Reporters were permitted to walk inside the triple fence surrounding Camp David where they usually watch Carter's arrivals and departures. They were allowed to walk to the edge of the landing area, one of the few times they have been permitted that far inside the retreat during Carter's presidence.

Carter's presidency.

Carter, wearing a blue windbreaker and black slacks and
carrying a clipboard, walked out to
meet members of the party as they
stepped off the helicopter. Then the
entire group walked down the path
to one of the lodges hidden from
view by trees.

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Powell said the president decided Wednesday that "it would be a good idea" for the diplomatic and military advisers to meet today.

The same group has met daily since the storming of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran 20 days ago.

Administration officials have said Carter is probing all possible diplomatic avenues for a peaceful solution that will result in the safe evacuation of 49 hostages who are still held captive by Iranian militants.

But it was revealed for the first time this week that he also may resort to military options if the hostages are harmed or placed on trial as spies.